



*El Centro*  
**Chamber of Commerce  
& VISITORS BUREAU**

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October 4, 2002

TO: Federal Communications Commission  
FROM: Cathy Kennerson, CEO  
RE: Proceeding 02-306

The El Centro Chamber of Commerce & Visitors Bureau has been a supporter of SBC Pacific Bell's request to the California Public Utilities Commission to enter into the long distance market. We were pleased with the recent decision endorsing SBC Pacific Bell's application.

The Federal Telecommunications Act of 1996 was landmark legislation that set out a clear path to open the entire telecommunications industry to competition. Our chamber supports competition in this industry and others. With SBC Pacific Bell's entry into long distance, the market will truly open and be fully competitive.

Both visitors and residents in our area will benefit from lower prices and more choice in long distance service given our geographical proximity to San Diego, Mexico and Arizona. Businesses value the ability to make choices when making telecommunication decisions. Approving Pacific Bell's application is the only way to give businesses and consumers the full and free choice that they want and deserve.

Competition in the telecommunication industry is now the norm. Over 141 million Americans are currently benefiting from a full, open telecommunications market and Californians want and deserve these benefits too.

The Chamber has a long history with SBC Pacific Bell as a member, and its employees are involved in our community. The Chamber encourages the FCC to grant SBC Pacific Bell application to offer long distance services.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Kennerson

Cathy Kennerson

Chief Executive Officer